

Emission Parts Locator Service

October 2004

California's Smog Check Program

Most California vehicles (1976 and newer) must pass Smog Check inspections every other year in order to renew registration in the state. The Smog Check inspection includes: a **visual inspection** to verify that all required emission systems are present; a **functional inspection** to verify that specific emission control systems are functioning; and a **tailpipe inspection** to verify that the vehicle's exhaust emissions are within established standards.

Repair of Emission Control Systems

As part of the Smog Check Program, all vehicles with missing, modified, or disconnected emission control systems must be repaired. In some cases, the required part(s) can be difficult to find. The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) suggests that motorists first check with their new car dealer, local auto parts stores, and automotive recyclers to find the needed parts. However, if the parts are not available locally, BAR helps motorists find them.

Emission Parts Locator Service

BAR contracts with the California Youth Authority (CYA) Free Venture Program to provide a toll-free, statewide telephone Emission Parts Locator Service. The program's employees help motorists locate those hard-to-find emission control parts they need to bring their vehicles into compliance.

How Does the Parts Locator Service Work?

A telephone agent provides each caller with the names and telephone numbers of three or more suppliers that may have the required part(s). The motorist then contacts the suppliers, and may purchase the part(s) from the supplier of their choice.

However, if part(s) are not available, the motorist must call and advise the Parts Locator. The Parts Locator then issues a "Limited Parts Exemption," which is mailed to the motorist.

The motorist must then make an appointment at one of BAR's 34 Consumer Assistance and Referee Centers where the vehicle will undergo a Smog Check inspection. The vehicle must pass *all* other aspects of the inspection before the Referee can issue a Smog Check certificate. Poor emissions levels, improperly functioning parts, or missing parts may be taken into consideration during the Smog Check inspection.

If the parts are not available at the time of the vehicle's next Smog Check, the motorist must again obtain a "Limited Parts Exemption," and the vehicle will again need to be inspected at a Referee Center. When required parts become available, they must be installed.

Other Services

The Emission Parts Locator Service also provides general information about Smog Check and related programs, aftermarket parts that have been approved by the California Air Resources Board, and refers motorists to other agencies for help when appropriate.

Motorist Convenience

The Parts Locator Service helps approximately 19,000 motorists annually. Without it, many motorists would not be able to repair their vehicles and complete the vehicle registration process with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Who Should I Call?

Call the Parts Locator Service toll-free at **1-800-826-3566**.